

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. In a final Office Action dated June 2, 2005 (hereinafter "Office Action"), Claims 1-5, 7, 11-14, 17-21, 23, and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1 and 17 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In addition, Claims 6, 8-10, 15-16, 22, 24-26, and 31-32 were again objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

By way of this amendment and response, applicants have amended Claims 6, 8, 15, 22, 24, and 31 and canceled Claims 1-5, 7, 11-14, 17-21, 23, and 27-30.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5, 7, 11-14, 17-21, 23, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various reference combinations. Claims 1 and 17 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In response, applicants have canceled Claims 1-5, 7, 11-14, 17-21, 23, and 27-30 in order to advance the allowable subject matter to issuance but reserve the right to pursue these claims and address these rejections in a continuation application. As a result applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 1-5, 7, 11-14, 17-21, 23, and 27-30 are moot and accordingly should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 8-10, 15-16, 22, 24-26, and 31-32 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, applicants have amended Claims 6, 8, 15, 22, 24, and 31 in such a way as to place them in independent form and to

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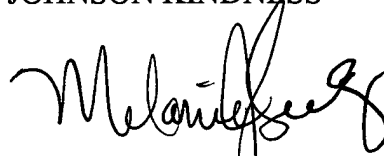
address the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection of select base claims. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 6, 8-10, 15-16, 22, 24-26, and 31-32 are now in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. As a result, applicants respectfully solicit an early and favorable action passing this application to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning the foregoing response, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

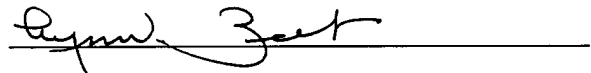
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Date: December 2, 2005



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